



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE

# Humanities & Mississippi

*Between 2008 and 2012, institutions and individuals in Mississippi received \$5.8 million from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Mississippi Humanities Council for projects that explore the human endeavor and preserve our cultural heritage. Below are some examples of projects since 2006.*

- NEH has awarded \$112,000 to the Ulysses S. Grant Association, Starkville, to complete a supplementary volume to the **Papers of Ulysses S. Grant**. This supplement will include correspondence discovered since publication of thirty-one chronological volumes. A digitized version will be prepared as well.
- To call attention to fifty significant places in blues music history, NEH awarded \$305,000 for the **Mississippi Blues Commission's Blues Trail**. The project includes a website with recorded interviews and music.
- Millsaps College, Jackson, received more than \$150,000 for two one-week teacher workshops titled **Eudora Welty's Secret Sharer: The Outside World and the Writer's Imagination**. The workshops focused on the Eudora Welty House, a National Historic Landmark, where the extensive collection of manuscripts, photographs, and correspondence reveals much about Welty's creative process.
- **Beauvoir, the home of Jefferson Davis, in Biloxi**, received a preservation and access grant from NEH totaling \$30,000 to salvage papers, paintings, and artifacts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Among the papers are Davis's manuscripts for his books *The Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government* and *A Short History of the Confederacy*.
- Tougaloo College received a \$30,000 grant to preserve the personal papers, oral histories, and memorabilia in the **L. Zenobia Coleman Library and Art Collection**, which documents the lives and work of Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King Jr., and other civil rights leaders.
- The **Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum**, Biloxi, received \$30,000 to address extensive wind and water damage from Hurricane Katrina. The collection includes historic boats, marine fittings, and blacksmithing tools.
- As Hurricane Katrina destroyed a Harrison County art studio on the Gulf Coast in 2005, the rising tides exposed a **long-forgotten French colonial cemetery** that was abandoned in the early eighteenth century. The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, was awarded a \$30,000 grant to excavate.
- The Mississippi Humanities Council hosted **New Harmonies**, an interactive exhibit on the rich diversity of American music. The Smithsonian Institution exhibit traveled to six communities in 2007 and to an additional six cities in 2011 and 2012.
- In 2011, the Mississippi Humanities Council prepared programs throughout the state for the arrival of **Food for Thought**, a conversation series about the aesthetics, ethics, and politics of food. In addition to a film series and book discussions, the project celebrates cultural aspects of food preparation in the Deep South.
- The Mississippi Humanities Council funds the **Mississippi Oral History Program** at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg which has conducted over 3500 interviews with state residents "from moonshiners to legislators to civil rights participants to blues singers."



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# Humanities Nationwide

*NEH supports programs and projects that contribute directly and dramatically to the cultural life and historical perspective of tens of millions of Americans. Here are a few examples.*

## **PRESERVING THE FIRST DRAFT OF HISTORY**

Nothing captures the character of a community or the spirit of an era better than its newspapers. *Chronicling America*, a partnership between NEH and the Library of Congress, is digitizing millions of pages taken from newspapers dating back to the early Republic, making it possible to search the pages online for any word or phrase—at no charge.

## **AMERICAN VOICES**

The papers of prominent Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and NEH funds many projects to assemble and preserve them, including complete sets of collected papers for ten presidents from Washington to Lincoln to Eisenhower as well as public figures such as Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King Jr., George Marshall, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain.

## **SUCCEEDING BY THE BOOK**

Over the past forty-five years, scholars supported by Endowment grants have produced more than 7,000 books—including numerous classics such as Dumas Malone's *Jefferson and His Time*, James McPherson's *Battle Cry of Freedom*, and Louis Menand's *The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America*—that have garnered scores of awards, including eighteen Pulitzer Prizes.

## **PAST AND PRESENT IN PIXELS**

NEH investments in the digital humanities make it possible for a student to walk the corridors of the Temple of Karnak in ancient Egypt in virtual 3-D, or to visit the 1964–65 World's Fair held in New York. Spectral imaging has been used to create an online critical edition of explorer David Livingstone's previously unreadable field diary.

## **GENERATING PRIVATE SUPPORT**

Almost \$2 billion in humanities support has been generated by the Challenge Grants program, which requires recipients to raise \$3 or \$4 in outside funds for every federal dollar they receive.

## **HISTORY ON SCREEN AND IN TOWN**

NEH-supported films, grounded in scholarly research, bring history alive. For example, twenty million Americans watched Ken Burns's seven-part *The War* (2007), and ten million saw *The Abolitionists* (2013). NEH also funds hundreds of exhibitions—not only blockbusters such as “King Tut” that make the wonders and heritage of other cultures accessible to the American public, but also smaller projects such as *Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War* that reach classrooms across the country.

## **KEEPING TEACHERS UP-TO-DATE**

Seminars, institutes, and workshops give teachers the opportunity to refresh and deepen their knowledge about the humanities through intense study. In the past three years, more than 2,100 college teachers and 7,500 schoolteachers have participated in NEH-supported programs, to the benefit of more than one million students.

## **REACHING ACROSS THE NATION**

Last year, state humanities councils, NEH's affiliates in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories put on 16,800 reading and discussion programs, 6,500 literacy programs, 4,000 speakers bureau presentations, 5,400 conferences, 1,750 Chautauqua events, 24,000 media programs, and 7,300 technology, preservation, and local history events. The 56 councils also sponsored 2,300 exhibitions.